

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 10-12. This sheet, which adds a lead line to Fig. 10 as required by the outstanding Office Action, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 10-12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1).

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending. The specification and Claims 1 and 31 are amended. Support for the amendments to the specification and to Claims 1 and 31 is self-evident. A replacement drawing sheet is submitted for Fig. 10, and support for the change to Fig. 10 is self-evident. No new matter is added. Claims 32-36 are withdrawn.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Information Disclosure Statement (Statement of Related Cases) filed on August 10, 2006, was indicated as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. §609. Figure 10 was objected to as not including a lead line for reference character (SB2). The specification was objected to for including an Abstract with over one hundred and fifty words, for using legal terminology in the Abstract, and for not including proper headings. The Title was objected to as not descriptive. Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the courtesy of a personal interview granted by Primary Examiner Hewitt to Applicants' representative on November 25, 2009. In combination with the Interview Summary provided by Examiner Hewitt, the substance of the personal interview is substantially summarized below in accordance with MPEP §713.04.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement (Statement of Related Cases filed on August 10, 2006), Applicants note that the related cases listed in the Information Disclosure Statement were filed only a few months before the Information Disclosure Statement was filed. Accordingly, the related cases listed in the Information Disclosure Statement had not been published by the USPTO at the time the Information Disclosure Statement was filed. Thus, as discussed during the personal interview, no publication date was available for listing

in the Information Disclosure Statement. Additionally, Applicants respectfully note that the cover page of the Information Disclosure Statement indicates that the submission of the Information Disclosure Statement was made “in accordance with the waiver of 37 C.F.R. §1.98 dated September 21, 2004.” Accordingly, as discussed during the personal interview, the related cases listed in the Information Disclosure Statement should be considered by the USPTO.

Regarding the objection to Fig. 10 for not including a lead line for reference character (SB2), a replacement drawing sheet is submitted herewith including the above-noted lead line. Accordingly, as discussed during the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the replacement drawing fully addresses the objection to the drawings.

Regarding the objection to the Abstract for including legal terminology and for exceeding one hundred and fifty words, an amended Abstract is submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the Abstract is overcome.

Regarding the objection to the specification for not including proper headings, headings are added to the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification for not including proper headings is overcome.

Regarding the objection to the Title, as discussed during the personal interview, the Title is amended to remove reference to a method. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the Title is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as indefinite for reciting “matches,” Claim 1 is amended as discussed during the personal interview to replace “matching” with “corresponding to.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of Claim 1 is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as indefinite for reciting “substantially in the region of,” Claim 1 is amended to replace this term with “to face, in a radial direction.” As

discussed during the personal interview, the groove faces the first outer surface as shown in Figs. 3-5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection of Claim 1 is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 for using the word “or,” as discussed during the personal interview, the punctuation (indentation) of Claim 1 is modified to clarify the alternative arrangements defined by the expression using “or.” As discussed during the personal interview, numbered paragraph [0081] of the published application (pages 13-14 of the original specification) describes a process in which the second abutment surface (SB2) rests on the third abutment surface (SB3). Continuation of the threading process, once the first abutment surface (SB1) has been brought into abutment with the fourth abutment surface (SB4), allows initiation of the storage of potential resilient energy by the first lip. Thus, the original detailed description describes the first axial abutment surface contacting the fourth axial abutment surface before the second axial abutment surface contacts the third axial abutment surface. Additionally, original Claim 1 included description of the second abutment surface resting against the third abutment surface “and/or” the first abutment surface resting against the fourth abutment surface. Thus, as discussed during the personal interview, Claim 1 is not indefinite for reciting “or.”

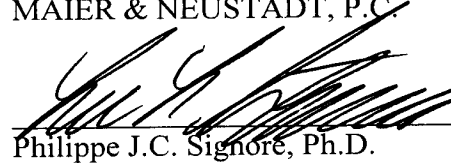
Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as indefinite for reciting “the plastic deformation region,” Claim 1 is amended to recite “involving plastic deformation subsequently carried out.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection of Claim 1 is overcome. The rejections of the remaining claims as indefinite are based on the rejection of Claim 1 as indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are also overcome.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance for Claims 1-36 is earnestly solicited.

Should Primary Examiner Hewitt deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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